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*Belga-Britannus;*

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OR, THE  
HOLLANDER

Always in the  
*English* Interest.

With REMARKS on the late ill  
Treatment the *Dutch* have met with  
from a certain Kingdom that is in  
Alliance with them.

To which is added,

The AFFAIR of *Amboyna* set in a  
true Light, by one that liv'd upon the  
Spot, in Answer to a Pamphlet, call'd,

*Dutch* Alliances, &c.

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In a LETTER from a *Dutch* Merchant at  
*Amsterdam*, to his Correspondent in *London*.

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LONDON, Printed : And Sold by S. Popping  
at the *Raven* in *Pater-Noster-Row*. 1712.

[ Price Six-Pence. ]

OR THE  
HOLLANDER

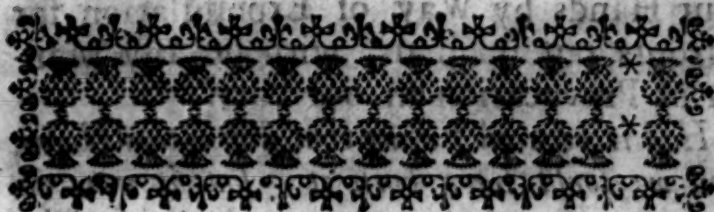
Always in the  
Tenth of March

of the last ill  
treatment the Dutch have met with  
from a certain Kingdom that is in  
Alliance with them.

to which  
The Act of 17 of January 1713  
true right by one that was upon the  
spot in August 1712  
Dutch Alliance, &c.

In a Letter from a Dutch Merchant at  
Amsterdam, to his Correspondent in London.

LONDON Printed: And Sold by S. P. King  
at the Crown in New-Street, 1713.  
[Price Six Pence]



# *Belga-Britannus.*

S I R,



S it is not without the utmost Reluctance, we that are Natives of this Place, give into any Complaints of a Nation, to whom, by the strictest Ties of Friendship, we are so closely ally'd; so it cannot but be extreamly afflicting to any true *Hollander*, who has the Love of his Country at Heart, to find the Place of his Nativity loaden with undeserv'd Reproaches, from a certain Quarter whence we might expect better Usage. I need not, 'tis presum'd, explain my self farther upon this Head, than to tell you, the many Pamphlets, charg'd with Invectives against us, that are publish'd in your Part of the World, and dispers'd from thence over all *Europe*, give Occasion for this Letter; which, instead of treating of Trade, and the staple



Commodities of both Nations, comes to your Hands by Way of Expostulation for Affronts put upon us, without any Manner of Provocation on our Part.

*Had it been an Enemy that did us this Harm, then we could have born it; but it was you that were our Acquaintance, and our familiar Friends; a People whose Preservation depends solely upon our Welfare and Safety; and who must unavoidably fall a Sacrifice to the Ambition of the common Enemy, should our State, which God prevent, fall under the Disasters it is threaten'd with. Mistake me not, that I think any one among you so lost to all Sense of impending Danger, and the Stipulations you are so solemnly engag'd in, as not to foresee the dismal Consequences that must attend our Downfal; but you'll pardon me, if I think some of you, amongst whom the Pamphleteers above-mention'd are the chief, are subject to such an Indolence of Temper on this Head, as is altogether inexcusable. For this, did we rescue you from impending Ruin, when your Laws, your Liberties, and your Religion, were at the Point of expiring? For this, did we enter into a War, when our Barrier might have secur'd to us beyond all Possibility of any Danger from France, and had no other Consideration to induce us to it, but your Safety and Repose? For this, when the Conditions of Peace which succeeded that*

War,



War, were violated, did we, in Conjunction with *England*, readily agree to Measures to oppose those taken by the common Enemy to enslave *Europe*, wholly at your Request, and for your Preservation? For this, to come to Occurrences of a fresher Date, did we, out of Deference to your Queen and her Ministry, give our Concurrence to the Conferences that are now held at *Utrecht*, against our own true Interest, and contrary to the Engagements we were under to the Emperor, and our other Allies? But common Gratitude has been out of Countenance for some Time, and with common Justice has conceal'd herself from publick View, in a certain Part of the World which you are no Stranger to; else had our Acts of Munificence and Hospitality to your exil'd Princes in the Time of their Wants and Distress, the Presents we made them preparatory to their Restoration, and the Assurances they gave us of an inviolate Affection and Friendship been had in Remembrance; else had our Aids of later Days not been forgotten, and the Succours we furnish'd you with, previous to the late happy Revolution, had another Sort of a Return, than what has been given them in your Conduct of the *Allies*, *Dutch Usurpations*, *Dutch Alliances*, and the whole Gallimaufry of Ribaldry and Scandal that has been suffered,

fer'd, with Impunity, to come out against us.

We acknowledge, and have a thankful Remembrance of the good Offices done to our Commonwealth by the renown'd Queen *Elizabeth* : We take Satisfaction in declaring the Effects of her Compassion and Munificence to the whole Christian World, and in the Thoughts that we have done what we could to repay them in the Instances before-mention'd ; but cannot be induc'd to believe, that because we have in Part ow'd the Rise of our State to your generous Assistance, we ought to join in such Measures with any one as are likely to contribute to the Fall of it. If we shook off the Yoke of Tyranny, when no longer able to bear with Oppression, so did you ; and if we are to be call'd Rebels by you on that Account, I pray by what Name must some Acquaintance of yours and mine go, that have done the self same Thing ? No raking into old Sores, I beseech you, especially such as that of *Amboyna*, which has little or no Foundation, as shall be made appear in the Sequel of these Papers, lest you discover your own Rottenness, and make appear, that there is a Nation now in Being, that is infinitely superior to us in Acts of Cruelty and Injustice. Nor, if Reasons of State will not allow us to go Hand in Hand with you in every Step we take, take this as a Breach of  
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of the Alliance between us. For if it be lawful for you to draw such Inferences, we have the same Liberty; and you are equally liable to Censure, for not coming into our Scheme, as we for not acquiescing with yours.

Surely 'tis enough to leave us to the Mercy of a revengeful and cruel Enemy; (who, by his late Conquests after your withdrawing your Troops from ours, threatens us with his old Devastations and Conquests) without triumphing over our Misfortunes, without exciting the Rage of the Populace against us, for Things which we have made Satisfaction for, and Breaches which we amply repair'd by a quite different Conduct. But if, upon this Occasion, we may have the Liberty to Recriminate, your own Historians will give you to understand, that you have been much more deficient in keeping to the Letter of your Alliances with us, as well in some past, as present Instances, than their High Mightinesses, with *England*; some Passages of which I shall produce, that the Enemies to *Holland* may have sufficient Testimonies to convict them in the Eye of the impartial Reader, if it is not possible to make them stand condemn'd in their own.

To begin therefore, says a very good Author, the *Dutch* being conscious to themselves of no Provocation given to *England*,



land, but of their Readiness, if there had been any, to make Reparation for it, and relying upon that Faith of Treaties and Alliances with us, which hath been thought a sufficient Security, not only amongst Christians, but even Infidels, pursu'd their Traffick and Navigation thro' our Seas, without the least Suspicion. And accordingly a great and rich Fleet of Merchant-men from *Smyrna* and *Spain*, were on their Voyage homeward, near the *Ile of Wight*, under a small Convoy of five or six of their Men of War. So many of King *Charles* the Second's Ships were equiped with great Stilness and Expedition early in the Year, as might, without Jealousy of the Number, be of competent Strength for the intended Action, but if any Thing should chance to be wanting, they thought it abundantly supply'd by Virtue of their Commander. Sir *Robert Holmes* had, with the like Number of Ships, even so timely commenc'd the first Hostilities against *Holland*, just after that Prince and his two Royal Brothers had been so nobly entertain'd by them in their Passage to *England*, and had given them his Word for an inviolate Friendship to their State. He with a proportionable Squadron signaliz'd himself, by burning the Dutch Ships, and Village of *Brandaeris* at *Schelling*, which was unfortunately reveng'd upon us at *Chatham*, so that he

was

was pitch'd upon as the Person, for Understanding, Experience, and Courage, fittest for a Design of this, on a more barbarous Nature; and upon the 14th of March 1672, as the Dutch Fleet sail'd on, to the Number of 72 Vessels, whereof six (as before) were their Convoy, he fell upon them near our Coast with his accustomed Bravery, and could not have fail'd of giving a good Account of them, would he but have join'd Sir Edward Spragg's Assistance to his Conduct: for Sir Edward was in Sight at the same Time with his Squadron, and Capt. Legg making Sail towards him, to acquaint him with the Design, till call'd back by a Gun from his Admiral, of which several Persons have had their Conjectures. Possibly Sir Robert Holmes, considering that Sir Edward had sail'd all along in Consort with the Dutch in their Voyage, and did but now return from bringing the Pyrates of Algiers to Reason, thought him not so proper to engage in this Enterprize, before he understood it better. But it is rather to be believ'd, it proceeded partly from that Jealousy which is usual to martial Spirits. Sir Robert's admitting a Companion to share with him in the Spoil of Honour or Profit; and partly out of too strict a Regard to preserve the Secret of his Commission. However, by this Means, the whole Affair miscarry'd. For the Merchant-

chant-men themselves, and their little Convoy, did so bestir them, that Sir Robert, notwithstanding all his Efforts, was defeated in his Designs, through the Valour of the *Hollanders*, and the Justice of their Cause; and all the Prize that was gotten, did not suffice to pay the Surgeons and Carpenters.

This made a Declaration of War unavoidable on the Part of the *English*; wherefore, because some few Families were detain'd by their own Consent in *Surinam*, at the Surrender of that Island, pursuant to a Treaty of Peace, and the whole *Dutch* Fleet of Capital Ships would not veil their Bonets, and lower their Flags to the *Fubbs* Yacht, little bigger than a Pinnace, they broke through all Ties and Engagements, and made void the most advantagious Alliance, to enter into one with *France*; than which nothing could be more scandalous. But after we had got nothing but Blows, it was thought necessary to strike up a Peace with the *Dutch*, who still courted our Friendship, though we were no more sincere to them in the Peace, than we were in our Grounds for the War. For the *English*, *Scotch*, and *Irish* Troops, which were Abroad in the *French* Service, were, contrary to the Articles of the Treaty, not only kept in their full Compliment, but new Numbers of Soldiers daily transported thither, in order to attack the U-  
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nited Provinces, making up in all, as is related, a constant Body of Ten Thousand Men, who often turn'd the Fortune of Battel on the *French* Side by their Valour.

In King *James* the Second's Time, another League was made with *France*, in order to destroy a Commonwealth that had stood in the Gap, as the Champions of universal Liberty, against him that would have been the Usurper of universal Monarchy. And even in King *William's* Time, after the Peace of *Ryswick*, we shamefully and ignominiously dismiss'd those Troops, by whose Courage and Conduct in War we attain'd it, from the Service of that Prince which they had been inur'd to from their very Infancy. Nor have they been better treated of late, even under her present M——— Reign, who has shewn the most generous Concern for the common Cause, and has declar'd their Interest to be inseparable from her own, they are suffer'd to be treated with Contempt by the most scandalous and profligate Writers, though, by their Assistance, *France* has been reduc'd so low, as to beg Peace at any Rate; though now the Victory at *Denain*, and the Reduction of *Doway*, thro' the Means of your Separation from the Confederate Army, has made them so arrogant and presumptuous, as not to agree

to a Cessation of Arms with the rest of the Allies.

It is observable, and worthy of being taken Notice of, that every one of the Confederates had Provocations given them for this so necessary a War, except the States General, who, we don't find, had any of their Countries, Cities, or Towns, seiz'd on, nor no Sort of Violence offer'd them; no, not so much as *declaring any Person attainted as a Rebel by their Senate*, to be their lawful King. What was then the Inducement that led them into the Alliance? Certainly in Friendship, and out of Assistance to *England*, both on Account of the reform'd Religion profess'd in common by both, and that they themselves were oblig'd, in Respect to their dead Prince, to engage heartily in his Peoples Quarrel.

There arises a modest Question here, Whether the *Dutch* were oblig'd to *England* for her Assistance, or she to them for theirs? The Answer is obvious, that she was affronted, by the *French* King's Declaration of a Person, who had no Right or Title to the Crown of those Realms, that they were not; and that she wanted Assistance to revenge the Affront offer'd to her, but they did not, because they had no Reason to war with *France*, but out of Love, Value, and Gratitude to the *English*, that had help'd them formerly.

Upon what Account therefore can your Libellers fall upon us after this unchristian Rate? If it is because we fall short in our Disbursements towards the Charge of the War, those Allegations can never bear. For let any one compare the Revenue of the two Nations, with the annual Expence of each, and affirm, if he can, that the Weight of the War has not, and still continues to do, lain heavier upon the *Dutch*, than you, which till then I shall take the Liberty to say it has and does; which is at once a full Answer to all that has or can be said against us. And if we were capable of deserting our Allies, and going into the Interest of *France*, after so much Success against them, the Authors that have written against us, have furnish'd us with better Arguments, than any they have brought against us. For if we have done all we can, and more than we can, which is true of us; and if what these Writers every where affirm of your Condition, be true of you, 'tis Time there should be an End of all Complaints on each Side; and that we should be glad of any Peace the *French* will vouchsafe to give us.

Therefore, considering how small a Territory the seven Provinces together make; that they subsist almost entirely by Trade, and that this Trade is mostly confin'd to one, which is not so big as some Counties



in *England*, still truly wonderful to see the mighty Efforts we have made. We have outdone even the Expectation of the Enemy; and I dare say the Tory Party in *England* are the only People in the World that think we have not done enough. To envy us any little Branch of Expence we have sav'd, in order to be able to support the more necessary Parts of the War with Vigor, is as barbarous, as to quarrel with us because we have not done more than we are able, is absurd and unreasonable.

And the same Answer I must take Leave to make to another Complaint against us, That we are always slow in paying our Subsidies. People can pay no farther than they have Money to pay with. We take the most extraordinary Ways to raise Money; Ways that you in *England* would be very loath to come to; and we are in Debt a great deal more than you, and have a less Revenue by much to answer it. 'Tis therefore not very strange, if our Payments of Subsidies are not so very quick, as they should be. If you are able to make quick Payments, you ought to do it, whether we do or not; and whenever you can't, I dare swear you will not; which is our Case.

As to the Barrier Treaty, that can't stand in the Light of any one that wishes well to the Protestant Succession. What then can be the Meaning of such violent Anger

Anger against so important a Treaty? What the Design of so many groundless Objections, when there is no Foundation for either of them? There can be but two Reasons for this very perverse Malice. It must either be with a View to the Pretender; or an ill Peace; one or both are at the Bottom of this black Design. It is said by some of your Authors, that it puts it out of the Power of your Legislature to change the Succession, without the Consent of the Guaranties. But if this be the Consequence of it, 'tis the best News; you ought to say, you have heard a great while, and should make you set a higher Value on the Treaty. Yet why this Intimation, that there can be any Occasion for such a Change? Why so many Innuendo's that you may have a War with the *Dutch*? And how came these Thoughts into your Head, before you are at an End with your War with *France*, if your Cessation of Arms speaks right?

What remains for me, after vindicating our present Transactions, is, to introduce you into a Defence of our past Conduct in the Affair of *Amboyna*, now brought upon the Stage, to irritate you afresh against your truest and most faithful Friends, whose Miscarriage, if any, should be cancell'd by the many Obligations we have laid upon you since. The Style of it will shew, that it has been written almost a Century ago; and though the Language may not be so correct

corrected as is expected from a Man of Letters and Conversation as most assuredly the Author was, for he was Cousin German to the Great Pensionary De Wit, and one of the Syndicks or Judges of Batavia; yet the Air of Sincerity it carries with it, and the little Assistance of Art it makes Use of, shew it to be a genuine Piece. Not that I need say any Thing in its Behalf, after I have acquainted you with the Name of the Author, so that you have nothing to do but to be convinc'd that you have been impos'd upon in the late Accidents; which is all from

have heard a great while  
you let a higher Value on the Treaty. Yet why this Intimation? Is it there can be any Occasion for such a Change? Why to my very humble Servant  
a War with the Dutch? And how came these Thoughts into your Head, before you  
Abraham Van Golt.

What remains for me, after vindicating our present Transactions, is, to introduce you into a Defence of our past Conduct in the Affair of Ambow, now brought upon the Stage, to irritate you still against your truest and most faithful Friends, whose Misstrust, if any, should be cancell'd by many Obligations we have laid upon you since. The Style of it will shew that it has been written almost a Century ago, and though the Language may not be so correct



( 1 )

THE  
AFFAIR  
OF  
AMBOYNA,

Set in a true Light.

THE true Causes and Reasons,  
which gave the first Beginning  
to the Suspicion the *Dutch* had har-  
bour'd, that there was a Conspiracy a-  
gainst them, arose from the great Li-  
berty the *Tarnatans* took in the *Mul-  
lucoes* and *Amboynese*, who, contrary to  
the Alliance in 1606 with the States Ge-  
neral, had now, without their Know-  
ledge and Consent, endeavour'd to make  
Peace with the King of *Tydore*, and a  
Truce with the *Spaniards*, both their  
and our Enemies ; by which the *Tar-  
natans* had laid aside all the Respect

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which the ancient Alliance, and our continual Assistance, had oblig'd them to.

The *Spaniards* were sufficiently powerful at Sea, because the *English* Merchants in the *East-Indies* were very backward to equip any Men of War for the common Security, though they were oblig'd, according to the Treaty in 1659, to furnish ten; for which Cause, the Enemy drove their Trade at *Manitba* without Controul, and became so powerful, as to send several Ships, Gallies, and Yatches, to the *Mulhucoes*, arm'd with Soldiers, and well stor'd with Provisions. By Reason the *English* Men had no Ships there, as they ought to have had, the Subjects of the King of *Tarnatan* committed several Insolencies against our Nation, and insulted over them in a very hostile Manner; some of whom they murder'd, who, notwithstanding our Requests, escap'd without Punishment; and as one Crime passing with Impunity, encourageth others to proceed in the like Villainy, by the Hopes of the same, so the *Tarnatans* of *Amboyna*, living at *Lobo*, *Cambello*, and other Places very near,

near, have gone farther, and put to Sea with a Fleet, and invaded several Islands under the Jurisdiction of the *Dutch* Governor at *Amboyna*, plundering the same, and murdering our Subjects, and making Slaves of the others; and, notwithstanding the repeated Instances and Desires of the *Dutch*, there was not so much as any Reparation made: Nay, they went farther, and publicly threaten'd to plunder the *Dutch* Merchants, and burn their Factory, which forc'd them to move their Effects, to avoid the threaten'd Destruction; for the *Tarnatans* had entirely ruin'd the *Dutch* Factory at *Lobo*, and burnt it.

In *Manilba*, in the Province of *Amboyna*, they also burnt our Factory, with the Loss of all their Effects. The *Dutch* Governor, finding that all his Requests were deny'd, and no Satisfaction given for the aforesaid Insolencies, prepar'd a small Armado, and embark'd for *Lobo*; where being arriv'd, they were met by a Fleet of the *Tarnatans*, much more powerful than the *Dutch*, who made the *Dutch* immediately sensible of the little Respect they had for them,



them, over whom they so domineer'd, that he return'd to *Amboyna* again.

The *Tarnatans* being encourag'd by this, were so bold and insolent, as publickly to declare to our Subjects, that they would come with a Fleet of one hundred Frigats, and plunder them; which put the *Indians* under very great Apprehensions.

In remoter Islands they gave out, that the *Dutch* had quitted the Island of *Amboyna*; at which Time, there were several private Consultations held among the *Indians*, which gave sufficient Reason for Suspicion.

The Governor and Council of *Amboyna*, being exasperated at these Proceedings, resolv'd to make Inquisition, if there were any Treason carrying on against them there, being certain, that the *Indians* of themselves durst not have undertaken so great an Affair, without the Support of some *European* Nation, as the *Spaniard*, *Portuguese*, and others; they understood also, that they at *Lobo* and *Cambello*, &c. had private Correspondence with the *English* Merchants.

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As Matters stood thus in *Amboyna*, Feb. 1623, there was a strange Discovery of a Conspiracy against the Castle, the Governor, and the *Dutch* in general at *Amboyna*; and that was certify'd by the apprehending of a *Japanese*, who was seen several Times, at unseasonable Hours, upon the Walls of the Castle, where he too curiously enquir'd of the Soldiers concerning the fixing and changing of their Guards, and the Strength of the Garrison, with other such Questions; who being seiz'd and examin'd concerning many Circumstances, confess'd, that the *Japanese* Soldiers in our Service, had resolv'd to make themselves Masters of the Castle; and, to accomplish the same, were to have the Assistance of the *English*, which they had desir'd; and that he (the *Japanese*) had been several Times at the *English* House, with the other *Japanese*, about three Months before the Time, and came to Conclusion with them about the Means that were to be us'd in the carrying on this Design. Upon which, all the *Japanese* that were in our Service, were disarm'd and apprehended; by the Examination, and unanimous

nimous Confession of whom, it plainly appear'd, that all the before-mention'd *Japanese*, at the Desire of *Gabriel Tower-son*, and other *English* Merchants and Officers, had agreed to assist the *English* in surprizing the Castle, which was afterwards to be deliver'd to them.

The *Japanese* also confess'd the Manner and Time, how and when they were to put this in Execution, according to the Agreement with *Tower-son*, *Abel Price*, and other *English*, whom they nam'd. *Abel Price* was then a Prisoner upon Account of another Villainy. By which, it appear'd to the *Dutch* Governors and Council at *Amb-oyna*, by the Confession of eleven *Japanese*, that *Gabriel Tower-son*, with the rest of his Accomplices, were guilty of the Design, and thought it reasonable, in Regard of their own Security, to seize them. But however, they were not so hasty, but order'd *Price* to appear before them in the Assembly, and (after they had nam'd to him the Place, the Persons, and the Time when, and where the Consultations between the *English* and the *Japanese* concerning this



this Treason were) they understood from him, that there was really such a Design, and that one of the *Japanese* had exhorted the other to confess it; and that *Towerson* was the first Author of it, and all the *English* Merchants in *Amboyna* had a Hand in the Conspiracy.

Upon these sufficient and unanimous Confessions of eleven *Japanese*, and of one *English*, *Gabriel Towerson* was order'd in before the Council, who, at the Desire of the Governor, sent for the other *English* to the Castle, who were there confin'd, except *Towerson* himself, who, at his Request, and upon Account of his Quality, as being the Head of the *English* Company in *Amboyna*, was suffer'd to be in his own House, under a strong Guard; and the others being examin'd in Order, the Treason prov'd very apparent, by their Confessions, which were all sign'd with their own Hands.

*Gabriel Towerson*, on *New-Year's-Day*, having sent for all the *English* thereabouts to come to him; and being assembled in his Chamber, he told them, he had an Affair of very great Importance

Importance to communicate to them; but that he could not inform them what it was, until they had taken an Oath of Secrecy; for if it should be made publick, he did not know but it might cost them their Lives.

Upon which, a Bible was brought in, and upon it they all took their Oaths of Secrecy.

After *Towersson* had with a long Preface declar'd to them, that he had found Means to make himself Master of the Castle of *Amboyna*, some there present rais'd an Obstacle of the Fewness of the Numbers, and their Unpreparedness for such an Attempt.

*Towersson* answer'd, That he would engage the *Japanese* Soldiers that were in the Castle to assist him, and that they would assault it, when the *Dutch* least expected them, and when the Governor should be out of the Way; and that they would wait the Time 'till some *English* Ships should be in the Road, whose Men he also would engage should stand by them; at which Time he would secure the Slaves that belong'd to the Factories in *Amboyna*, and that they need no farther doubt,  
but

but that he would provide all Things that were needful, and particularly, that they of *Lobo* should come with their Frigats to his Assistance: To which they all present took their Oaths, to stand by him with their Lives and Fortunes.

And concerning the Method by which they were to attempt it, *Townson* had order'd the *Japanese* to fix two Men at each Bastion of the Castle, and the rest, if possible, to secure the Governor, and kill him; and upon a certain Sign to be given, to fall upon the Fort, and put all to the Sword that should make any Resistance, and to secure the rest as Prisoners, and then to divide their Effects among themselves; of which the *Japanese* were to have their Share, besides a thousand Pieces of Eight, which they were to have had before, for the Destruction of all those that would not agree with them in their Design: But in Respect to the Time, it was not then fix'd, but that they should be all ready at *Gabriel Townson's* Call, and that the *Japanese* should give them a particular Sign, as soon as they should see an opportunity.



when they thought fit to begin the Attempt.

The aforesaid *Gabriel Towerfon* being demanded particularly, what mov'd him to so base an Enterprize? He reply'd, the Desire of Honour and Profit. And being ask'd again, who should insure this Honour to him, and whose the Castle must have been, had it been taken? He answer'd, That if he could have accomplish'd his Design, he should have advis'd his Country-men at *Batavia* thereof, who, if they had immediately sent him Succours, he would have surrender'd the Castle to them, (that is, to the *English* Company there) and if not, he would have endeavour'd, with the Assistance of the *Indians*, to have maintain'd it himself.

After *Towerfon* had been examin'd, the Governor of *Amboyna* complain'd grievously to him of his barbarous Design, and ask'd him, If this was a Recompence for the many Favours and Civilities he had bestow'd upon him? To which *Towerfon* reply'd, with a great Sigh, That if it was possible to be undone again, it should never have been attempted.

attempted. And thus ended his Examination.

This is the Substance of the Confession of the ten *Japanese*, and fourteen *English*, and of the *Dutch* Commander of the Slaves, to which they had each of them set their Hands.

This was their Crime, apparent and undeniable, and deserv'd the greatest Rigour, according to the Sentiments of all Nations.

Sure no Christians would offer to patronize so horrible a Deed, but condemn the Authors thereof to Death, as the Governors and Council of *Amboyna*, in the Name of the States-General, had done by these guilty Criminals.

Here you have the Truth of the whole Matter, notwithstanding it is rumour'd in *England* quite another Way, with what Design, or with what Conscience, I cannot determine; but am satisfy'd the Case will justify it self.

The first Point that was mov'd against the Administration of Justice in *Amboyna*, was concerning the Proceedings, which they reported were with-

out Form, and too rigorous against the Persons concern'd.

You are sensible, and all Men that use any Reason, that every Land hath its own Laws and Orders, and its particular Way in Proceedings, both in Civil and Criminal Affairs. *England* hath hers, *France*, *Spain*, and other Kingdoms, have their particular Administrations, which among themselves are of Authority, and lawful; so that if any Person will take upon him to judge concerning the Legality or Illegality of any Land's Administration of Justice, he must first look into his own Country, and consider well the Laws and Customs thereof.

The aforesaid Proceedings of the Governor, were justifiable by the Authority of the high and mighty States of the united Provinces, the chiefest Place of whose Command in *India*, is in the Island of *Ambayna*, which was conquer'd by them some Years before, forc'd from the *Spaniards* and *Portuguese*, our declar'd Enemies, and now justly maintain'd by them, according to the Laws of Conquest, as is the Custom of other Nations; and in which



which Island of *Amboyna* there is the same Administration of Government, as in *Holland*; as also were the Proceedings against the Conspirators.

I know that the Laws of *England* differ much from ours; nay, and from most Kingdoms and Governments in *Europe*; and therefore none will maintain, that the *English* Government, in Regard to its Delinquents, is not formal, or allowable; for the *English* do not exceed, or vary much from, *France*, *Spain*, or *Germany*; for each Land hath its Laws, and that Law is to them a standing Rule.

Therefore the *Japanese* Soldiers, being in the Service of the *Dutch* in *Amboyna*, and by Providence having been discover'd in this their Conspiracy against their Castle and Government, were taken, examin'd, and condemn'd for the same; which makes this Proceeding justifiable, and of Concernment to none else, since the *Japanese* knew no other Governor or Government, nor had any Maintenance, but what they had from the *Dutch*.

These *Japanese*, and the Captain of the *Dutch* Slaves, confess'd unanimously,

ly, that they were mov'd and hir'd by the *English* residing at *Amboyna*, to attempt this wicked Design, whose Names they publickly declar'd; and therefore it is justifiable, both in *England*, *Holland*, and most Parts of the Universe, that the Authors, Promoters, and Accomplices in Murder or Treason, ought and must be punish'd with Death; and it is also conformable to all Laws, that they who are only suspected, should be apprehended and confin'd, 'till they could clearly vindicate themselves.

And since the Crime was actually against the *Dutch*, and under their Jurisdiction, no others had a Power to concern themselves therein; and thus the Governor of the *Dutch* acted; and although the *English* pretended a Right to examine into the Affair, and to have punish'd the Offenders according to their Merit, as being *English*-men; yet since, as I said before, the Crime was against the *Dutch*, and under their Government, they had no Power nor Authority for it.

This is all they could say against the Proceedings; which, among the *Dutch*,  
were

were accounted right and lawful : But to make it the more substantial, it appears from the Process, that the *English* were not immediately confin'd upon the first Suspicion, tho' there were many plain Proofs against them ; but after the *Japanese* were examin'd and condemn'd, who had confess'd both the Names of the *English*, and the Time and the Method of the Enterprize, and that they had hir'd them to it.

One of which *English*, namely *Abel Price*, was taken into Custody before, for raising a Tumult in the City, who also confess'd, as the *Japanese* had done before, that *Towerson* and the rest of the *English* had this wicked Design in Hand ; so that it plainly appears in all these Matters, that the Governor of *Amboyna* had proceeded with the greatest Foresight and Precaution against the *English*, directly conformable to the Laws of the *Dutch*.

The second Point, that was abusively reported in *England* against their Proceedings, was, that the *Dutch* at *Amboyna* were not in themselves authoriz'd



thoriz'd to seize the foremention'd *Eng-  
lish*, to proceed against them, and pu-  
nish them; but that it belong'd to  
the grand Council of *Jaccatra*, being  
compos'd half of *Dutch*, and half of  
*English*, according to the Treaty 1619,  
and ratify'd by his Majesty and the  
States-General, between the two *East-  
India* Companies.

And to be very certain in the Mat-  
ter, I have look'd into that particular  
Treaty, and must declare, for my own  
Part, I cannot perceive in the whole  
Treaty, that there is one Word or  
Article by which (as it is reported in  
*England*) this must have been deci-  
ded; for the Point of Judicature is in  
it self so considerable, that I appeal  
to all Men of Sense, whether it would  
be reasonable that the Friends of those  
convicted of this Conspiracy, should  
be Judges in that Case or no. For my  
Part, I find a great many Arguments a-  
gainst it, viz. That in that Treaty it is  
plain, that the *Dutch* have always admi-  
nister'd Judicature in *Amboyna*, to all  
that dwell under the Command of the  
Castle, to Strangers as well as to the  
Inhabitants, and that the *Dutch* had a  
Share

Share with the *English*, only in Traffick and Commerce of Nutmegs, Mace, and Cloves, without any farther Communication ; each of them dwelt in the Country unmolested, on the Rights and Possessions they enjoy'd, as it appears by the 24th Article of the said Treaty, which expressly says, ' That the Forts should remain in the Hands of those who at present had them in Possession.

And by the 13th, 14th, and 15th Articles of the said Treaty, the Grand Council had no farther Power, than to judge concerning the Differences that might happen between the two Companies in Trade, or in Matters concerning the Fleet design'd for their common Security ; and lastly, concerning the Taxes and Imposts that were to be rais'd by the Traffick for the maintaining of those Forts ; and nothing else can be deriv'd from the Treaty ; and therefore this Point is not only abusive, but directly contrary to their mutual Obligations.

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It was also publish'd in *England*, that in the Examination of the Offenders, they had made Use of excessive Rigour in their Tortures. I cannot see this to be any Pretext against the Legality of their Proceedings; for the Matter was so apparent, that if they would not have confess'd it, they ought to have been forc'd to it. And as for these Matters, I will leave them to the Wisdom and Justice of the Crown of *England*, and their High-Mightinesses, and doubt not but they will both justify these Proceedings, where they are made sensible of the Matter of Fact.

I understand, their High-Mightinesses have a great Desire to be rightly inform'd of the Matter, and to know the whole Truth of it, with the Management of the *Dutch* in it against the *English*, both in Respect to their Examination, and their Execution, and to see all the Letters and other Papers that related to this Affair; for it was so partially reported here, that the Torments they underwent,



underwent, were unsufferable ; but I may justly deny it, and must say, the *Dutch* abhor Cruelty, and love Clemency, as much as any Nation in the Universe.

But if malicious Persons in *England* have so expos'd us by this Calumny, and put so dismal a Face upon these Proceedings, on Account of the sharp Examination which the *Dutch*, according to the Custom of other Nations, have us'd against these Conspirators, yet I doubt not in the least, but it will appear justifiable in the Sight of all the World.

Though these *English* are so strenuous in their Censures against other Nations, let them but only look at Home, and see there how Matters are manag'd in such a Case ; when the Delinquent being ask'd once or twice, and refuses to answer, is laid upon a Table, or a Plank, with another upon him, upon which they lay great Weights of Stone, or Lead, that bursts his Body. In this miserable Condition he ends his Life, as most Parts of the

World can testify ; and therefore, since such Proceedings cannot be called unlawful, it being according to the Acts of Parliament, and Custom of the Country, why then should they dispute the Proceedings of other Nations ? And to speak the Truth impartially, the convicted *English* were positively accus'd, by the Confession of eleven *Japanese*, their Accomplices, who prov'd them plainly guilty of their Crime, just at the Time of their Executions ; which, if they had been but slightly examin'd, they would have deny'd, and persisted in the Vindication of their Innocency.

I will maintain, that the Cruelty of pressing to Death in *England*, is much more terrible than what was inflicted by the *Dutch* upon the *English* at *Amboyna*.

To understand the Matter thoroughly, and that I might not be oblig'd to the Opinions of others, I have endeavour'd to get into my Possession the written Process against these *English* Conspirators, which I take to be authentick, viz. That after the Confessions

essions of the *Japanese*, *Gabriel Towerson*, with the rest of his Accomplices, were seiz'd, whose Examination continu'd some Days, which the Governor and Council took into their mature Deliberation, if possible to find out Means for their being clear'd; but the Crime appearing so plain against them, it was the Opinion of all, that they deserv'd Death; and that Execution ought to be done with the greatest Expedition, it being an Affair of so dangerous a Consequence, fearing that the *Indians* and *Tarnatians* about *Ambayna*, might raise an Infurrection, they not knowing what others there might be concern'd with the *Engliss* in this Conspiracy.

And concerning the extraordinary Torments they suffer'd, I have made a strict Enquiry into it, and cannot find that it was so barbarous, as it was given out in *England*.

To force People to Confession by some sort of Punishment, is usual; and this they suffer'd, according to the Act sign'd by the Governor.

‘ The



‘ The Council being assembled,  
 ‘ have thought fit, that the *Eng-*  
 ‘ *lish* should be examin’d one by  
 ‘ one, which was done; and some  
 ‘ of them before the Punishments,  
 ‘ and others after a very little Tor-  
 ‘ ture, made their Confessions.

So that it is apparent, there was  
 no such extraordinary Cruelties as ma-  
 licious Persons have given out; be-  
 sides, many of them were not so much  
 as touch’d.

This is the full Account of the  
 Affair, of the Process, and of the  
 Punishment. Some of the *English*  
 were pardon’d, to secure the Compa-  
 ny’s Effects; concerning which, par-  
 ticular Order was given.

So that what was before mention’d,  
 is nothing but what was customary  
 and lawful, against such Persons who  
 had conspir’d against the State, and  
 against the *East India* Company, in  
 endeavouring to murder their Servants,  
 and to seize on their Forts, and against  
 the Obligations of Amity and Friend-  
 ship

ship which was between both Nations;  
and sure such Delinquents as these, I  
hope, deserve no Protection.

All which Proceedings I refer to  
your High-Mightinesses solid Wisdom,  
not doubting but you will give your  
impartial Judgment upon them.

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**F I N I S.**

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